

for Maharashtra, Gujrat and Karnataka?

Shri Hathi: I require notice.

ACCUMULATION OF CLOTH IN MILLS

*241. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of unsold cloth, lying with the mills till the end of October 1953; and

(b) the reasons for the large accumulation of cloth in the mills?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) 421,625 bales of 1,500 yards as on 31st October, 1953.

(b) The reasons are many—the more important ones being high level of production, prolongation of the monsoon period which put off purchases by the trade and partly resistance to the price levels due to expectations of decrease in prices on the part of the trade or inability to buy on the part of the consumer in some areas in the country.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether there has been an overall increase in the production of cloth after the change-over to de-control of price and distribution?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I won't say that. But I think we have been producing cloth at a very high level almost from the middle of 1952 and that high level of production is being maintained.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Do the Government propose, or have the Government conducted an enquiry to find out whether there has been a wide gap between the purchasing capacity of the people and the production of cloth in the mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That, I am afraid, is a matter for which we have to depend upon our Central Statistical Organisation. But it is undoubtedly a fact that from the study of the movement of the cloth from the

producing areas, more cloth has been moving into the northern parts of India, whereas in Central India and the South, consumption has been on the low side. It was presumably because last year monsoon conditions in those areas had been rather bad. The expectations are that the consumption in the country will be one of general improvement during 1954, provided our expectations of the monsoon really come off.

Shri Kelappan: May I know whether there has been any contraction in the external markets?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: "Contraction" is a term which can only be used in terms of comparison. As between last year and this year, there has been an expansion, not a contraction.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether in order to increase the export of cloth, there is a proposal to set up a Council for textile promotion, and if so, when that Council is to be set up?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is an idea that has been placed before the manufacturing and trading interests, and I have not yet seen on paper their reactions.

NATIONAL EXTENSION SCHEME

*242. **Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state how many Development Blocks under the National Extension Scheme were inaugurated on the 2nd October, 1953?

(b) How many villages are covered by these Blocks?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) 192.

(b) 19,200 (Approximately).

Shri Heda: May I know the exact relationship between the community projects which were inaugurated last year and these Development Blocks?

Shri Hathi: The National Extension Blocks and the Community Projects differ in the sense that for the latter,